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Agenda Item: 5E
Meeting Date: June 8, 2005

BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DELTA LEVEES AND HABITAT SUBCOMMITTEE

REPORT TO BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(See Attached)

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BDPAC Delta Levees and Habitat Subcommittee

Marci Coglianesi and Tom Zuckerman, Co-Chairs

May 23, 2005

Gary Hunt, Chair
Bay-Delta Public Authority
California Strategies
18800 Von Karman Av., Ste. 190
Irvine, CA 92612

Dear Gary:

Subject: **Opposition to Use of Levee Maintenance Funds to Study
Risk to Delta Levees (Delta Risk Management Strategy)**

Dear Gary:

We have been asked by the BDPAC Delta Levees and Habitat Subcommittee to tell you of the subcommittee's grave concerns about a decision to fund the \$6 million Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS) with Proposition 50 Levee Program dollars. This decision imperils the Local Assistance Program that pays for the on-going maintenance and special improvement of the Delta levees.

You may recall that at the end of April CBDA-BDPAC joint meeting we remarked that the funding situation for the Levees System Integrity Program was far worse than depicted on the April 8 spreadsheet entitled "CALFED Bay-Delta Program, Years 6 & 7 near-Term Priorities and Funding Proposals."

The spreadsheet shows \$19.9 million available from Proposition 50, the primary source of state funding for the levees program. The reality is that after payment for the DRMS and various staff and other administrative expenses, there will be no state funding for the levee program in Year 7. The only reliable funding that remains is about a \$400,000 annual payment from the State Water Project.

After extensive discussion, the Committee members at their May 6 meeting unanimously recommended (agency staff abstaining) that the DRMS not be funded from the levee maintenance (subventions) portion of the Local Assistance program. As you are aware, state subvention dollars are matched by local Reclamation District dollars. Without state matching funds, it is impossible to predict how much maintenance work the districts will undertake. The likely result is that much less maintenance work will occur, further threatening the integrity of levee system. How ironic that the DRMS, which is being undertaken precisely because of the current concern about the

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integrity of the levees, becomes the reason for NOT funding the ongoing maintenance of the levees we are so concerned about!

In conclusion, if no other source for funding the DRMS can be found, the committee urges that any remaining Local Assistance Program funds go only to the Levee Maintenance/Subvention portion of the program and none to Special Improvement Projects. We ask that the Committee's position be forwarded to the BDPAC for consideration at its June 8, 2005 meeting.

Sincerely,

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Hon. Lois Wolk
Patrick Johnston
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